

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on 16 February 1996, at 10:00 a.m., in AD-131, Loyola Campus.**

**Present:** Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Ms. J. Chegrinec, Secretary; Mr. R. Côté; Mr. H. Zarins; Dr. S. M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. A. Siano; Ms. D. Cooper; Ms. C. Sbrocchi; Prof. B. Barbieri; Mr. A. Feldman; Ms. E. Robinson; Mr. D. Ellison; Mr. N. Baidoun; Mr. K. Lowther; Dr. R. Bonin; Ms. L. Lipscombe; Mr. R. MacIver; Ms. L. Prendergast; Ms. C. Hedrich (delegate for Ms. A. Vroom).

**Absent:** Ms. A. Coombs; Mr. S. Zacharias; Ms. L. Kuilman; Dr. I.M. Barlow; Ms. K. Hedrich.

**Guests:** Ms. M. Littman, Director, Residence Administration; Ms. C. Grace, Coordinator, Sports Information/Publication.

1. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion by Ms. Kerby, seconded by Dr. Graub, the agenda was accepted. Mr. Baidoun asked that the motion on part-time child care be included under new business. Mr. Côté asked if item #8. b) Final Report, Task Force on Residence, could be moved up before item #6. With these amendments, the agenda was approved.

2. Remarks from the Chair:

Dr. Boisvert welcomed Prof. Barbieri as the newly appointed faculty representative to Council. Ms. C. Hedrich and Ms. Grace were also introduced.

The Chair informed Council that the 1996/97 budget will be tabled at the March meeting. He also said that the Directors have been working hard to avoid a fee increase in this budget.

3. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of 15 December 1996:

On a motion by Mr. Baidoun, seconded by Mr. Lowther, the minutes were accepted. Mr. Feldman asked that it be noted in the minutes that Dean Counihan not only paid off the 63 cents owing but gave an additional amount bringing the total up to \$1.00. The excess funds will be put towards the purchase of a Brian T. Counihan Commemorative Bulletin Board. The minutes were approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes:

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Report from the Planning & Resources Committee:

On behalf of the Co-Chairs Ms. Kerby announced that there was no report from the Committee. The Committee will report in March.

8. **b) Final Report, Task Force on Residence:**

Ms. M. Littman, Director, Residence Administration, was granted speaking privileges. Dr. Boisvert provided background information. A motion to accept the recommendations was made by Mr. Lowther and seconded by Mr. Côté. Mr. Zarins, Prof. Barbieri, Ms. Kerby, Ms. Prendergast, Mr. Côté and Mr. Ellison spoke to the motion.

Mr. Zarins asked about a breakdown of the direct and indirect costs associated with the running of the residences. Ms. Littman explained that these costs were tied into the space imputation policy of the University.

Prof. Barbieri asked if the University has ever calculated the funds received from the government for those students who come to Concordia specifically because of the offer of residence. Ms. Littman acknowledged that residence students do contribute to the University, but that this type of contribution would be difficult to calculate. The Office of the Registrar may be able to evaluate the fee structure and provide a more concrete number of students who wouldn't have come to the University if they had been unable to stay in residence. Dr. Boisvert directed the members to Dr. Bertrand's reference to the Office of the Registrar.

Mr. Zarins asked if there had been any discussion about building a new residence on the SGW campus. Dr. Boisvert responded that CCSL could recommend that a second task force be established to examine this question. Mr. Zarins pointed out that throughout the report reference is made to Continuing Education and Recreation and Athletics being involved. Mr. Zarins would like it on record that if a new residence is built that Recreation & Athletics will be included in the discussions.

Mr. Ellison said that the survey indicated that more students would prefer to live downtown than on the Loyola Campus. He would recommend that any new facility should be built to accommodate disabled students, children and married couples. This type of residence would attract more undergraduate as



well as graduate students.

Ms. Kerby commented that the quality of the residence facilities must be improved. She felt that this was not expressed clearly in the report. The University has to decide if they want a quality residence life or not. Dr. Boisvert said that if there was an expansion of residences, quality would be improved. He clarified Ms. Kerby's comment by saying that Hingston Hall needed upgrading. Ms. Kerby said that endorsement by CCSL of any of the recommendations should be contingent upon the University making a commitment to upgrade Hingston Hall.

Prof. Barbieri said that the Office of the Registrar has to be careful how it promotes residences, as a balance has to be maintained. He asked to what extent the recent government remarks about educating out-of-province students were taken into consideration by the Task Force. Dr. Boisvert responded that until such time as a government statement is forthcoming then the University will operate with the status quo. Ms. Prendergast said that Liaison is very conscious of the situation when promoting the quality and availability of residence space. She said that the offer of a bed to scholarship students wasn't a great success and asked if CCSL thought it was a good idea to continue tying a bed with a scholarship.

This question elicited a further discussion on the merit of reserving beds for student athletes, international students, exchange students and scholarship students and the suggestion of reserving the beds for first year students. Mr. Ellison thought that this practice was unfair. Ms. Littman responded that when there were two residences, Hingston Hall became the first year residence while Langley was more the second year student residence. She said that the building itself is more conducive for first year students and she sees that it will naturally become a first year student residence due to a variety of reasons.

Mr. Zarins wanted it clarified that Recreation & Athletics have worked at reducing the number of student athlete beds. Ms. Littman said that the departments couldn't guarantee arrivals, only Recreation & Athletics and CIAC did; currently 15 out of 144 beds are reserved.

Prof. Barbieri wanted to congratulate the Task Force on the first recommendation: "that the University maintain the portion of Hingston Hall currently used for residence".

Dr. Boisvert addressed the motion and asked for an endorsement of the report and the recommendations.

The motion was approved unanimously and Dr. Boisvert will move forward with Dr. Bertrand on the recommendations.

6. Student Life Issues:

**Dean of Students:** Mr. Feldman asked for clarification on rumours which have been circulating that the Office of the Dean of Students will be eliminated, and that the space currently occupied by the Dean of Students will also be eliminated.

Dr. Boisvert responded by saying that the role of the Dean of Students is currently under review by the Student Services Review Committee. Dr. Boisvert wished to clarify however that the space occupied by the Dean of Students Office is designated Student Services space.

Mr. Feldman pointed out that because of certain closures on the Loyola Campus, namely the Office of the Registrar, the Dean of Students Office has become busier. Dr. Boisvert indicated that all he could say until the review was completed was that the Committee may recommend a redefinition of the role but he expects that the recommendations will be positive.

Mr. Feldman also asked that if there was to be no major decision until the Review Committee's report is tabled in the spring, but assuming that the position of Dean of Students would remain, why was there not a search committee being formed? Dr. Boisvert said that it was quite certain that the Acting Dean of Students, Roger Côté, would have his mandate extended until August.

The second student life issue, also raised by Mr. Feldman, was in regards to the Writing Assistance Programme. Students had several concerns about what has happened and what the future holds for this programme.

Mr. Feldman, on behalf of the student membership on Council, formally complained that a decision had been made on this issue without any input from Council, and that CCSL was not advised of the decision and had to find out through informal sources.

Mr. Feldman continued by saying that it was understood that the Programme could not longer continue to exist within Counselling & Development, and that there was some discussion on reviving it within the academic sector but that nothing concrete had yet been reached. If the Programme closes on 30 April, the students feel it should open 1 May somewhere.



Dr. Graub responded by saying that the Learning and Writing Center is not closing; only the tutorial segment will no longer be available. The Center specialists will still see students who require writing assistance. She said that the closure had been discussed in many forums and any decision made within Student Services is motivated on improving the service. The most intense discussions on the decision were held at meetings of the Directorate and internally within the Department on many different levels. Tutorials already exist in other areas in the University so a void will not exist on 1 May. A list of locations is available where students can be referred for tutorials.

Dr. Boisvert emphasized at this point that the Learning and Writing Center's mandate has been refocused making it much broader and eliminating duplication of services.

Mr. Lowther argued that the students will now have to pay \$300 for a service which had been free. He also asked why it wasn't brought to Council; he said that CCSL has the responsibility to get involved in eliminating any service, otherwise the message being given by the Directorate is that Council's contribution is not important or germane.

Mr. Baidoun pointed out that a number of professors sent students to Counselling & Development and that other locations for tutorials are not advertized; he also asked how CCSL could have given its consensus to the closure when a vote wasn't held.

Dr. Graub responded by saying the refocusing of the Center had been discussed in her presentation to CCSL. Ms. Kerby agreed that the students were not aware of other options in regards to tutorials, but she also emphasized that what is happening is a refocusing of the Center, not an elimination of a service. There have been complaints from faculty as well on charges of plagiarism. Also, she agreed with Dr. Graub that there had been a one-hour discussion about this issue which occurred prior to Mr. Lowther joining Council. She reminded Council that this refocusing is a direct result of a recommendation by CCSL to address the lack of assessment for learning disabilities.

Mr. Lowther said that if the students don't remember the issue being discussed, it must not have been made very clear at the time. Dr. Boisvert remarked that, although he had no wish to bypass CCSL, that the managers are paid to manage the units and the Directorate's sense was that this was the best way to go.

Mr. Ellison asked if the refocusing of the Center's mandate includes a planned improvement in accommodation for students with learning disabilities. Ms.

Kerby replied that Student Services was always looking for ways to improve service; Mr. Ellison clarified that he meant more academic support when he talked about accommodation. Ms. Kerby said that work is being done with the government to have learning disability students be eligible for financial aid.

Mr. Feldman argued that saying in a departmental report that a unit's mandate will be refocused is not the same as saying that a programme will be closed. He said that perhaps the student representatives on Council hadn't been as diligent as they could have been in some cases, but he argued that the question should have come to CCSL. He agreed with Dr. Boisvert that managers are paid to manage their units, but he emphasized that when it comes to a service that impacts over 1,000 students then it should be clearly presented at CCSL. He said that the student representatives were not opposed to the decision, but were opposed to the process by which that decision was reached. He argued that Council can't say that there is duplication since a free service is being replaced by an expensive one; to him that doesn't represent duplication.

It was agreed that Dr. Graub would supply CCSL with a detailed rationale of the decision at the next meeting of Council in March. Prof. Barbieri expressed his opinion that what the students wanted was more than a rationale; they wanted assurances that the service would continue to be provided.

Ms. Kerby suggested that students lobby Prof. Jans and Dr. Lightstone to support the integration of the Writing Center into the academic sector. Also, she said that providing improved resources would result in both short and long-term benefits. This issue will be included on the agenda for March.

7. Reports from Directors:

Written reports by Directors were distributed.

Mr. Zarins, Director, Recreation & Athletics, gave a presentation. Due to lack of time Mr. Zarins was unable to show a prepared video but invited interested individuals to remain after the meeting for a viewing.

After the presentation there was a question and answer period. Mr. Baidoun asked what the financial split between Recreation and Athletics was. Mr. Zarins said that the split was fairly even. Recreation had increased its number of programmes this year and they were all full. What is hindering the addition of more programmes is the facilities. Mr. Zarins also commented on the fact that the Department is the largest employer of students at the University. Mr. Feldman asked about broadcasting coverage of



major sporting events, and was informed that only successful teams are covered. It was mentioned that the Loyola High School is building new sports facilities and the question was asked whether the University could rent space and time. Mr. Zarins said that the High School had been approached with a proposal but that they were not interested at this time.

On behalf of Council Dr. Boisvert thanked Mr. Zarins for his report. Next month Health Services will make a presentation.

Dr. Bonin informed Council that the Library Review had begun in January and asked CCSL to consider submitting comments on what it feels should be priorities of the Library. The deadline for input is 27 February but an extension is possible.

Dr. Boisvert asked the Planning and Resources Committee to prepare a report for forwarding to the Library Review Committee. The report will be tabled at the March meeting of Council. Mr. Lowther volunteered to help Ms. Kerby prepare the report.

8. New Business:

**a) Student Life Awards:** The following motion was moved by Mr. Côté and seconded by Mr. Baidoun.

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) offer again in 1996 its awards for outstanding contributions to student life at the University (Merit, Outstanding Contribution, Media, and Teaching Excellence Awards).

**Be it further resolved:** that a committee of CCSL be established to select the recipients of the awards, the membership to consist of:

- 2 Undergraduate Students
- 1 Graduate Student
- 1 Student Services Staff Member from CCSL
- 1 Faculty Member from CCSL
- The Acting Dean of Students, as Chair

There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously. The committee will consist of the following membership: R. Côté, B. Barbieri, D. Cooper, 1 graduate student (to be appointed), and 2 undergraduate students (to be appointed). The ceremony will be held 1 April 1996.

c) **Other New Business:** A motion to approve the introduction of an orientation fee was moved by Mr. Côté and seconded by Mr. Zarins. Mr. Lowther spoke against the motion. He argued that the backup documentation didn't justify a four-fold increase in the cost of orientation. He also is not convinced that the fee should be applied only to first-year students. He would like a better rationale tabled as well as a budget indicating what the \$250,000 would be used for.

Mr. Feldman indicated that the students were not against the fee increase but felt that it would be difficult to approve this amount without more information. He requested clarification since the document said that some of the funds would be used towards the deficit. Mr. Côté said that all the funds would be used for orientation, but also to pay off the line of credit.

Some Council members felt that new students should not be responsible for the deficit on the line of credit. In response to a question by Ms. Prendergast, Mr. Feldman said that he saw no problem in part-time students being charged the same amount as full-time students. He did suggest though that a one-time fee be placed on all students for the upcoming year to pay off the deficit; after this has been eliminated then an orientation fee could be charged to all new students.

Mr. Côté will prepare a report for tabling at the next meeting of Council. This issue will be considered along with the CCSL budget. Ms. Kerby argued that the orientation fee is not a student services fee and shouldn't run in parallel with the Student Services budget. Mr. Lowther disagreed.

d) **Part-time Child Care Proposal:** On a motion by Mr. Baidoun, seconded by Ms. Kerby, the following proposal was tabled for approval.

That the CCSL through the Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Student Life) and Director of Advocacy formally requisition space and renovations for a part-time child care service as part of the university commitment to student and community life on the SGW campus of Concordia.

That the CCSL strike a working group to draft a management structure, guidelines and fee proposal for a part-time child care service.

That all parties work towards a possible opening date for these services of September 1996.

There was no discussion. Prof. Barbieri suggested that the proposal specify both campuses not just SGW. Mr. Côté suggested that the proposal be moved forwarded immediately. The motion was carried unanimously as modified.



Ms. Kerby will form a working group to prepare a detailed proposal for submission to CCSL.

9. Next Meeting: 29 March 1996 SGW campus.
10. Termination of Meeting: The meeting terminated at 12:30 p.m.